^rd December THE DESPERATE STATE or IRELAND

The revolt and defection of the Inshry doth daily increase in every part, and of those who still seem to stand firm most are in effect gone in heart, so that there is no hope either to stay these dangers or preserve the Kingdom from losing unless new forces be immediately sent over Rarely any week now passeth wherein there are not received advertisements either of the surprising of castles, burning of towns, or massacring the subjects and havocking their goods Sir Thomas More, an Englishman by birth, was lately betrayed in his own house by the treachery of his watch, himself slam, and his wife and two daughters carried away by the traitors, who leaving his wife stripped in a bog she is dead since with the cold Captain Gifford is slain in his own house, and his wife seeking to save her husband by prostrating herself upon him was in many places sore wounded

Moreover, such is the nakedness of the soldiers for want of clothes, and then- poverty for lack of lendings to buy them food, that many of them show like prisoners, half starved for want oi cherishing, and like at any time to disband or break into some great mutiny [3] and if any of the companies should break and either run to the enemy or steal into England there would be small hope of the Kingdom

PLAYS AT COURT

Of late the Lord Chamberlain's players played four times at Court and the Earl of Nottingham's men twice, who played *The Downfall of Robin Hood,* and for this they are rewarded at the rate of .£10 a play

$tb December A LOAN IN THE CITY

Because of the great charges of providing this

army in Ireland her Majesty now seeketh a loan from the City, and lest it should be denied upon any just colour she is pleased to bind her own lands or give assignations of all customs This loan is to be for six months at the rate of 10 in the 100 The strangers likewise that dwell in this country are required to lend 200,000 French crowns upon the same security